Tremarctos floridanus

Tremarctos floridanus, occasionally called the **Florida spectacled bear**, **Florida cave bear**, or rarely **Florida short-faced bear**, is an extinct species of bear in the family Ursidae, subfamily Tremarctinae. *T. floridanus* was endemic to North America from the Pliocene to the end of the Pleistocene epoch (4.9 million–12,000 years ago), existing for approximately 4.9 million years.^[1]

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Environment

T. floridanus was widely distributed south of the continental ice sheet, along the <u>Gulf Coast</u> through <u>Florida</u>, north to <u>Tennessee</u>, and across the southern United States to California.

<u>Arctodus</u> (3 million–11,000 years ago) was a contemporary and shared its habitat with *T. floridanus*. The closest living relative of the Florida cave bear is the <u>spectacled bear</u> of South America; they are classified together with the huge short-faced bears in the

Tremarctos floridanus Temporal range: Pliocene-Late Pleistocene Pre€ € OS D C P T J K PgN Scientific classification 🥖 Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Carnivora Family: Ursidae Genus: **Tremarctos** Species: †T. floridanus **Binomial** name †Tremarctos floridanus (Gidley, 1928) **Synonyms** Arctodus floridanus Gidley, 1928

<u>subfamily</u> <u>Tremarctinae</u>. They became extinct at the end of the <u>last ice age</u>, 10,000 years ago (possibly as late as 8,000 years ago at <u>Devil's Den</u> in Florida), [2] due to some combination of <u>climate change</u> and <u>hunting</u> by newly arrived <u>Paleo-Indians</u>.

Taxonomy

Originally, Gidley named this animal *Arctodus floridanus* in 1928. It was recombined as *T. floridanus* by Kurten (1963), Lundelius (1972) and Kurten and Anderson (1980). [3][4]

Fossil distribution

Sites and specimen ages (not complete):

- Arroyo Seco (CU 45), Palm Spring Formation, San Diego County, California 4.9–1.8 Mya
- Cumberland Cave, Allegany County, Maryland 1.8 million–300,000 years ago
- Cutler Fossil Site, Miami-Dade County, Florida 120,000—12,000 years ago^[5]
- Devil's Den Cave, Marion County, Florida about 8,000 years ago

- Lecanto 2A site, Citrus County, Florida paleontological sites, about 300,000–11,000 years ago
- Ladd's Quarry Site, Bartow County, Georgia 1.8 million—11,000 years ago
- Rock Spring Site, Orange County, Florida about 100,000–11,000 years ago

References

- 1. PaleoBiology Database: *Tremarctus*, basic info (http://paleodb.org/cgi-bin/bridge.pl?action=checkTaxonInfo&taxon_no=52411&is_real_user=1)
- 2. Kurtén and Anderson: 56, 178-79
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- 5. Carr, Robert S. (2012). *Digging Miami*. Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida. p. 32. ISBN 978-0-8130-4206-0.
- Kurtén, Björn; Elaine Anderson (1980). <u>Pleistocene Mammals of North America</u> (https://books.google.com/books/about/Pleistocene_Mammals_of_North_America.html?id=f8pviaxPIKEC).
 New York: Columbia University Press. ISBN 0-231-03733-3. Retrieved 26 January 2013.

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